

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants propose to amend claim 1 herein. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for applying a modifying composition to a substrate, comprising:
a processing chamber configured for passing a substrate therethrough, the processing chamber comprising:
a first region;
a second region;
a constricted medial region between the first region and the second region;
a first baffle separating the first region from the constricted medial region, the first baffle having an adjustable ~~non-equidimensional~~ aperture ~~sized and configured~~ sizable and configurable to accept ~~a substrate~~ differently sized and shaped substrates of substantially matching, but slightly smaller, cross-section;
a second baffle separating the second region from the constricted medial region, the second baffle having an adjustable ~~non-equidimensional~~ aperture ~~sized and configured~~ sizable and configurable to accept ~~a substrate~~ the differently sized and shaped substrates of substantially matching, but slightly smaller, cross-section;
and
wherein the processing chamber is further configured to accept a treatment mixture thereinto during movement of the substrate therethrough, where the treatment mixture comprises a modifying composition in a carrier medium selected from the group consisting of a supercritical fluid, a near-critical fluid, a superheated fluid, a superheated liquid, and a liquefied gas, the processing chamber being configured to initiate a pressure drop in the treatment mixture such that the modifying

composition is released from the carrier medium and applied to the substrate within the processing chamber; ~~and~~
an entry seal in communication with the first region of the processing chamber, the entry seal comprising at least one entry seal baffle having an adjustable ~~non-equidimensional~~ aperture ~~sized and configured~~ sizable and configurable to accept ~~a substrate~~ the differently sized and shaped substrates of substantially matching, but slightly smaller, cross-section; and
an exit seal in communication with the second region, the exit seal comprising at least one exit seal baffle having an adjustable aperture sizable and configurable to accept the differently sized and shaped substrates of substantially matching, but slightly smaller, cross-section.

2-4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein an aperture of the entry seal baffle is configured for passing therethrough a substrate selected from the group consisting of sheet-like substrates, U-shaped substrates, corrugated substrates, irregularly shaped substrates and angled substrates.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the aperture of the entry seal baffle is configured for passing therethrough a sheet-like substrate selected from the group consisting of a plate, a ribbon, a sheet, a screen, and a plied material.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising at least one expansion chamber disposed between the entry seal and the processing chamber, and at least one expansion chamber disposed between the exit seal and the processing chamber.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the entry seal and the exit seal comprise fluid filled chambers configured to maintain a pressure that is at least slightly greater than pressures in the expansion chambers.

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the entry seal and the exit seal are each configured to maintain a processing chamber pressure that is at least slightly greater than the adjacent expansion chambers by continuous inflow of a fluid.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the entry seal and the exit seal are each configured to maintain a processing chamber pressure that is at least slightly greater than pressures in the adjacent expansion chambers by continuous inflow of a fluid that is inert with respect to the treatment mixture.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising a pressure regulator configured for controlling pressure in the processing chamber.

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising a temperature regulator configured for controlling temperature in the processing chamber.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a substrate feed controller configured for controlling a speed at which the non-equidimensional substrate is passed through the system.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the entry seal baffle comprises an aperture configured to allow multiple equidimensionally cross-sectioned structures to pass therethrough simultaneously when arranged in an adjacent manner so as to present a non-equidimensional cross-sectional footprint in the direction co-linear to the travel of the arranged equidimensionally cross-sectioned structures.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the aperture comprises an aperture configured for passing multiple equidimensionally cross-sectioned structures therethrough simultaneously when arranged in a side-by-side manner, a top-to-bottom manner, or encircled about each other.

19. (Previously presented) A system for applying a modifying composition to a substrate, comprising:
an entry seal, wherein the entry seal includes an entry seal baffle which is adjustable to a different size and shape for allowing different substrates to pass therethrough;
a processing chamber in communication with the entry seal and configured to allow movement of a substrate through the processing chamber, wherein the processing chamber comprises an entry processing chamber baffle allowing entry of a substrate into the processing chamber, a constricted area for reducing the pressure of a treatment mixture introduced into the processing chamber, and an exit processing chamber baffle allowing exit of a substrate from the processing chamber;
an injector in communication with the processing chamber and configured to introduce the treatment mixture into the processing chamber, wherein the treatment mixture comprises a modifying composition in a carrier medium selected from the group consisting of a supercritical fluid, a near-critical fluid, a superheated fluid, a superheated liquid, and a liquified gas;
an exit seal in communication with the processing chamber, wherein the exit seal includes an exit seal baffle which is adjustable to a different size and shape for allowing different substrates to pass therethrough; and
a substrate feed controller configured to control a speed at which a substrate is introduced into the entry seal.